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THE FLYLEAF

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NEXT MEETING OF THE FRIENDS:

"BOOKS - THEIR DECLINE AND CONVALESCENCE"

The next meeting of the Friends of the Fondren Library will be held on Thursday, January 25, at 8 p.m., in the Lecture Lounge of the Library. Mr. Herbert Fletcher will speak to us on the subject "Books - Their Decline and Convalescence." One of the best known bookmen of Houston, Mr. Fletcher has been an active friend of the Rice Library even before the organization of the Friends group. Under whatever title, his talk is sure to lead into many entertaining highways and byways. The meeting is open not only to Friends and Rice alumni but also to anyone interested in booklore.

THE LAST MEETING: EARLY MAPS OF TEXAS

A collection of early maps of Texas, loaned to the Library by Dr. Henry Maresh, was on exhibit as a special preview for the meeting of the Friends last October 23. These maps dated from 1579 to 1864 and consisted largely of pages from early atlases. Here was a picture of the gradual growth of knowledge concerning Texas and portions of Mexico which trickled back to Europe from the early explorers and settlers. By means of slides projected on a screen, Mr. William Masterson, who assisted the Library in cataloguing the maps, was able to point out specific place names, marginal comments of early cartographers, and other interesting details of the individual maps.

An exhibit of books, examples of fine printing and illustration, circulated by the Donnelley Lakeside Press, was also available on tables in the rear of the Lecture Lounge for members to examine, together with publishers' notices and catalogues.

We are told on good authority, "Ask and it shall be given unto you." Since the publication of the first issue of The Flyleaf, our confidence in the Biblical injunction has been refreshed; we asked for a number of books which we needed, and every one has been given. The magnificent Papers of Thomas Jefferson was presented by the associates of Butler, Binion, Rice, and Cook as a memorial to Walter Alvis Parish, Jr. From Miss Nina Cullinan has come Indian Art of the Americas and from an anonymous Friend the Index of American Design. The Stokes Foundation has presented the monumental Church and State in the United States. The first editions of Wordsworth, Browning, and Walpole, wistfully mentioned in The Flyleaf, have come as the gifts of Mrs. C. H. Neblett and Mr. and Mrs. Wendel Ley. The Current Study Club, interested in literature as well as current affairs, has presented The New Colophon, a subscription which it plans to renew annually.

Other gifts, not solicited but equally welcome, have been made by many people. From Mrs. George Westfeldt, Sr., of New Orleans, has come a large collection of magazines, newspapers, and books dealing with the career of General De Gaulle; from Mr. Robert O. Randall a set of the Collected Works of Brann the Iconoclast; from Mr. Hubert Roussel, thirteen new LP records; from Mrs. Hugo Neuhaus, Sr., a subscription to the microfilm edition of the Christian Science Monitor and the handsome 75th anniversary edition of Science and Health; from Mrs. Wilbur White, several hundred volumes on political science from the working library of the late Professor Wilbur White; from both Miss A. Jeanette Jones of New York City and Mrs. Malcolm McCorquodale, a score of good general books; from Mr. Herbert Fletcher, a number of old maps, in particular the fine LeRouge map of North America (Paris, 1756); from Mr. Edwin Arnold, a collection of books on the Confederacy.

Many other magazines, books, and records are the gifts of Miss Nellie Mills, Mr. Bernard Epstein, Mr. Colmar Daltro, Mrs. G. H. Morris, Mr. Clark Crockett, Mrs. Helen Dawes, Mrs. James Chillman, Miss Helen Chillman, Mr. Ruben Weltsch, the Newman Club of the Rice Institute, Mr. R. A. Tsanoff, Mr. C. E. Kievlan, Mr. James K. Korges, the Harris County Historical Society, Mr. Floyd S. Lear, Mr. Henry S. Hoffman, the Humble Company the Tennessee Gas Transmission Company, Mr. Joe Finger, and Dr. John Schaefer of New Braunfels.

The Memorial Book Fund, which provides an excellent opportunity for a lasting memorial, has been increased by the gifts of funds for the purchase of books in memory of Dean Cameron by Mr. H. O. Nicholas, Mr. and Mrs. Fred V. Shelton, the Society of Sigma Xi, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Morehead, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Strater, and Miss Sarah L. Lane; in memory of Dean Weiser by the Society of Sigma Xi, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. James Chillman, Mr. H. O. Nicholas, Miss Anne Wheeler,

Miss Pender Turnbull, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Meyer, Miss Alice C. Dean, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. McCann, Mr. and Mrs. Fred V. Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Morehead, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Alan D. McKillop; in memory of Dr. Wilbur White by Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Tsanoff, the Political Science 340 class, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Lear, Mrs. Perry Olcott and the Ladies of the Rice Discussion Group, and Mr. and Mrs. Hardin Craig, Jr.; in memory of Mr. Walter Earl Berry by Mr. and Mrs. Fred V. Shelton; in memory of Mr. Will Hardy by Mr. and Mrs. Fred V. Shelton; in memory of Senora Aurora Mendoza by Mr. and Mrs. Fred V. Shelton; in memory of Mr. W. T. Germany by Mr. H. O. Nicholas; in memory of Mr. Allen C. Cochrum by L. Lechenger, Inc.; in memory of Mr. W. W. Fondren by Mr. Arthur F. Heard; in memory of Mrs. James L. Autry by Mr. Arthur F. Heard; in memory of Marian Shutt Hathaway by Mr. and Mrs. Guy T. McBride; in memory of Mr. Roy C. Hohl by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Meyer III;

in memory of Mr. John R. Donaldson, Sr. by Miss Merseburger; in memory of Mr. K. H. Cawthon by Mr. Manro Oberwetter; in memory of Mr. T. D. Gresham by Mr. and Mrs. Davis Hannah, Jr.; in memory of Mr. Charles Cobler by Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hudspeth; in memory of Mr. E. G. Floeter by Mrs. W. M. Strozier and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Lewis, Jr.; in memory of Mr. Vance Muse by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Lewis, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Floeter, Jr.; in memory of Mrs. W. E. Ridgeway by Miss Elsie Sue Haynie; in memory of Mr. William Gilmore Smiley, Jr., by Miss Nina Cullinan; in memory of Mr. John Virgil Scott, Jr. by Miss Nina Cullinan; and in memory of Mr. Maco Stewart by Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hudspeth and Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Delange. The above list includes recent book memorials received before the end of 1950.

At the meeting of the Friends last October Mrs. W. W. Fondren presented to the Library a copy of the great Oxford English Bible in honor of Bishop Frank Smith.

The first New Year's gift to the Library through the Friends was the handsome five volume edition of the Letters of Charles Lamb, published by the Bibliophile Society, given by Mr. Herbert Fletcher. The Book Fund, which is one of the most important projects of the Friends, has been increased by \$800.00 through very generous donations from Mr. and Mrs. Wendel Ley, Mrs. Robert J. Cummins, and Mrs. M. R. Underwood. In conclusion, having told whence came they, we happily add "So many and so many and such glee."

A BOOK REPAIR DEPARTMENT

The Friends are interested not only in acquiring books for Rice but also in preserving those which it already owns. One of the most pressing needs of the Library is an adequate book repair department. Many of the Library's rarest volumes are acquired in a frail or damaged condition. Two or three student assistants are

kept busy with the routine mending of books worn out through heavy use, but a large portion of this work requires expert professional skill. Though some of these repairs can now be farmed out, this system removes the books from the shelves for a much longer time and is not always satisfactory.

Exactly what equipment such a repair department would require is difficult to say, but certainly a large press, a rotary blade trimming knife, and a stock of leather and buckram would be essential. The principal need, however, is for a trained bookbinder employed on a regular basis. It may be easier to pay his salary than to find him in Houston. If the Friends can locate a man competent for the job and donate his services for a trial period, the Librarian assures us that he can make a good case for continuing the man's salary in the next budget request. Any suggestions or funds for this project will be heartily welcome. Please call the Librarian.

DEVOUTLY TO BE WISHED

In the new Oxford Book of American Verse, F. O. Matthiessen praises that gently ironical poem by Holmes that we quoted last time ("Little I ask, my wants are few"), and gives it preference over "The Chambered Nautilus", the one that says, "Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul." He is right. We are well satisfied with our present stately mansion, but we are still looking for things to put in it.

No report of a university library's needs can go far nowadays without referring to micro-film, a device which we already take for granted but which is nevertheless marvelous. Vast amount of rare and inaccessible material can thus be assembled and provided for new research centers like Rice, compactly stored, and conveniently used. Of course the microfilming of great aggregates of books, newspapers, and manuscripts, if figured at say, fifteen cents a foot of film, runs into large sums. But these projects can be started on the installment plan, or selectively.

e are already in on a program to microfilm
 all books printed in the English language up
 to 1642. A basic undertaking for American
 history, now completed jointly by the Library
 of Congress and the University of North Carolina,
 is the filming of all the early official records
 of all 48 states and their predecessors. Figure
 it or imagine it--at \$15.00 per hundred-foot
 reel, over 30 miles of film can be stored in
 less than 26 cubic feet! Rice's acquisition
 must begin somewhere--with your favorite state,
 perhaps? News of another project comes from
 Ireland, the microfilming of all Irish news-
 papers before 1750 held by the four principal
 Dublin libraries. We can get this unique col-
 lection, valuable for history and literature, 22
 hundred-foot reels, for \$155.00.

Great Names. Sir John Hawkins, not
 Boswell, wrote the first life of Johnson. Not
 so good as Boswell's, but we need it, and it is
 fairly offered at \$9.00. In Johnson's wake
 comes Goldsmith; we covet a first issue of the

first edition of his Essays, \$28.00. The death of G. B. S. makes us wonder when his complete works will appear. There is a "collected edition" up to 1938, 33 volumes, \$112.00, catalogued by an Edinburgh dealer whose prices are very fair. We do not predict a slump in Shaviana.

Science. Two great firsts in geology and biology: Lyell's Principles of Geology (1830-33) at \$36.00, Darwin's Origin of Species (1859) at \$70.00. Late in life the great Newton wrote a treatise on chronology (1728); this we should like to add to our Newtoniana at \$5.00. Another good Newtonian item: Voltaire's Elemens de la Philosophie de Neuton, (his spelling), 1738, \$30.00, and from the same list, the English translation of Maupertuis' Figure of the Earth, 1738, \$15.00, an account of the famous expedition to Lapland to measure a degree of the meridian.

Because of its wide appeal we include M. M. Mathews' forthcoming Dictionary of Americanisms, to be published early in 1951 by the University of Chicago Press, two volumes for about \$50.00.

In the field of early American history the welcome reprint of a scarce and essential bibliography has been announced: Catalogue of Books Relating to the Discovery and Early History of North and South America, edited by E. D. Church. Described as the finest catalogue of Americana yet published, the reprint, in five volumes, is listed at \$100.00. It previously sold, when available, for \$400.00.

We need a good early edition of Foxe's Acts and Monuments, the famous "Book of Martyrs"! A 1684 edition can be had in three huge folio volumes for \$18.00.

Notable for illustrations: Van Sinderen, Blake the Mystic Genius, Syracuse University press, \$5.00; Ronald Jessup, Anglo-Saxon Jewellery (British spelling), \$6.00.

First editions of familiar novels:

Jane Porter's Scottish Chiefs, 5 volumes, 1810 (probably never out of print since), \$5.60; Trollope's Last Chronicle of Barset, 2 volumes, 1867, \$10.00. Not a first, but a superb set, the Shakespeare Head Edition of the novels of the Brontes, 11 volumes, \$ 39.50.

Music. We are not fairly started on formulating our needs. But just to illustrate the possibilities, we can get recordings of most of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas at prices ranging from \$11.00 to \$14.00 apiece. And there has recently been published a collection of field recordings of tribal, folk, and café music of West Africa at \$25.00.

Alan D. McKillop

I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER

Annual membership dues are two dollars. This provision keeps the Friends alive. But you can pay nothing and still be a Friend. Just let us know you want to remain on our mailing list.

To build up a Book Fund we need more than two dollars. Desirable and rare books continually appear on the market, and as far as possible we want the Library equipped to take advantage of opportunities that offer. Therefore the following additional memberships are invited:

Sustaining	\$10.00	Benefactor	\$100.00
Subscribing	25.00	Patron	500.00

All purchases from the Book Fund will be made by the Librarian and the Library Committee, in accordance with the wishes of individual donors where desired.

Please send your check to the treasurer, Mr. Charles Hamilton, National Bank of Commerce. Any contribution is deductible.

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